

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 50

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dennis Cook on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those outstanding public servants who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Cook is one such estimable person who has worked with probity and integrity as a civil engineer for nearly 42 years, first with the Federal Highway Administration and then with the Tennessee Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cook will be taking a much deserved retirement from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) on January 31, 2007; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional whose counsel is valued by all who know him, Mr. Cook is an inspiration to his colleagues who admire him for his professional expertise, his exceptional service to the public, and for his outstanding leadership skills; and

WHEREAS, born August 11, 1940, in Unity, Wisconsin, Dennis Cook graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1962, with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, he began working with the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads (now FHWA) in the department of planning and research, ultimately becoming the Tennessee Division Administrator, in which capacity he worked for nearly ten years until his retirement from FHWA in May of 1996; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cook immediately began working for TDOT in June of 1996 as Chief of Bureau of Operations and has served as the Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Environment and Planning from February of 2000, until January of 2007; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Cook has ingeniously served as a bridge linking the past with the present as state transportation officials have explored new ways of accomplishing their work;

he has proven to be expert in connecting traditional views based on years of experience with new and creative ways to carry out the Department's transportation responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cook has utilized a variety of resources, such as environmental reviews, Context Sensitive Solutions, new planning methods, and public involvement to help TDOT maintain the highest of standards, while continuing to accommodate massive growth within the State; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional, Mr. Cook pays homage to traditional views in regard to transportation planning, reminding his peers of the importance of all perspectives and reinforcing the value that each person brings to their work; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Cook has been an important link between the Federal Highway Administration and TDOT, and has helped to facilitate the sometimes difficult meshing of federal and state perspectives; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Cook was awarded the FHWA Administrator's Bronze Medal and the U.S. Secretary of Transportation's Silver Medal; and

WHEREAS, he is a registered Professional Engineer in both Minnesota and Tennessee, and a member of the Institute of Traffic Engineers; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Dennis Cook is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Sara, their son and daughter-in-law, Chris and Linda, daughter and son-in-law, Jenny and Kurt, and two granddaughters, Haley and Kamryn; and

WHEREAS, in his spare time, Mr. Cook enjoys showing horses and spending time with his beloved dogs and cat; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Cook exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Cook has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers and superiors alike; he has offered unfailing and valuable service to the Environment and Planning division of the Department of Transportation, and his absence will be keenly felt; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we extend to Mr. Dennis Cook our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, thank him for his many years of loyal service to the State of Tennessee, and wish him every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.